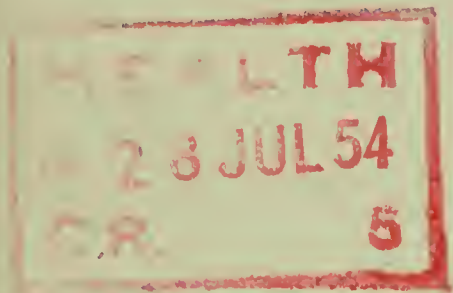


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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AMERSHAM



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

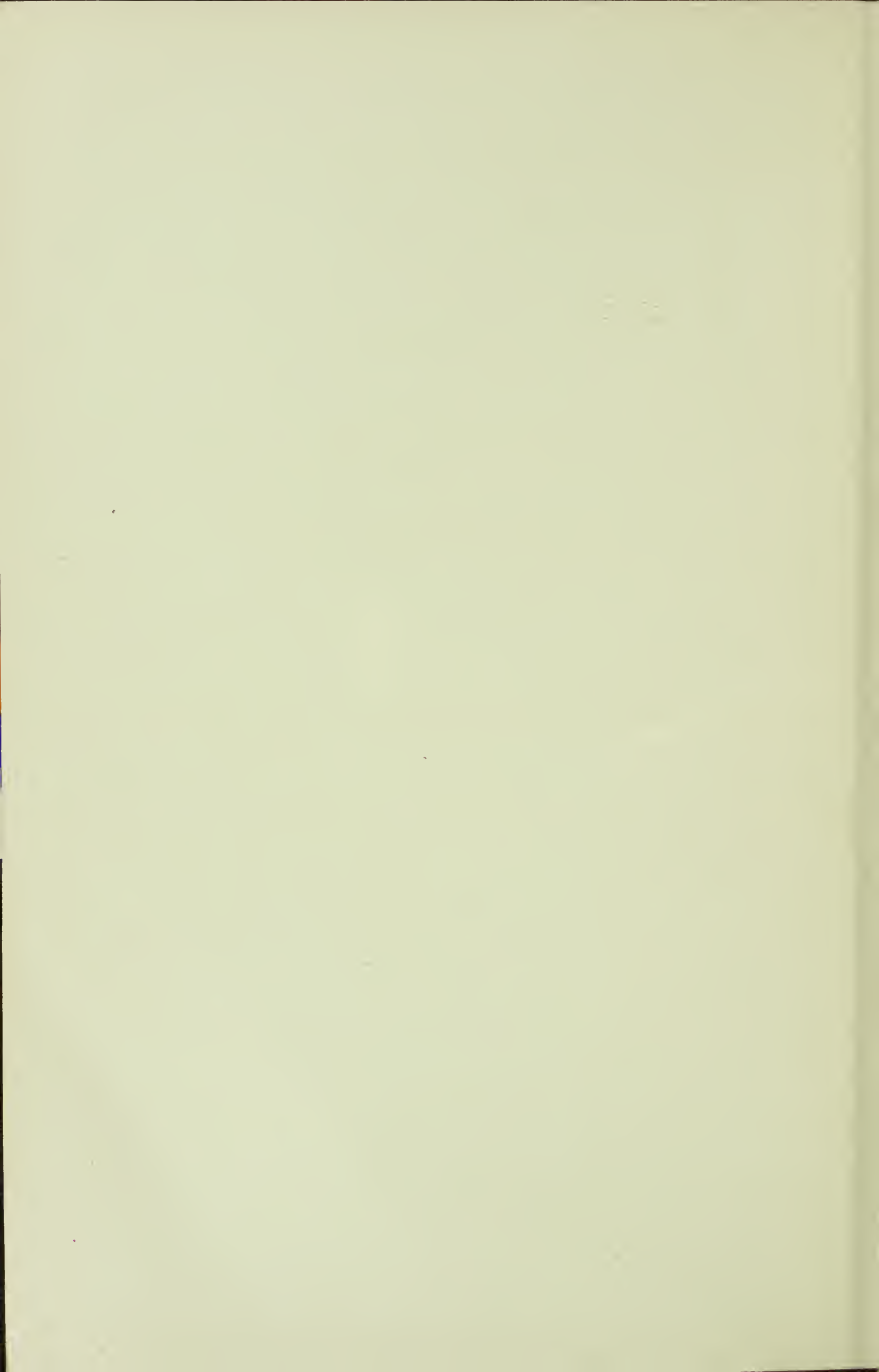
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1953



T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



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**ANNUAL
REPORT**

of the

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GENERAL DISTRICT COURT OF PROBATE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1873

PRINTED BY THE
MEDICAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
AMERSHAM, Bucks.
May, 1954.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Amersham Rural District Council.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1953.

As will be seen from the pages dealing with INFECTIOUS DISEASES, there was no case of diphtheria notified to me during the year, thereby making 1953 the seventh year in succession during which no cases of diphtheria has been notified within the Council's area. This freedom from diphtheria is very satisfactory, but the elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunization in the child population. This level is secured by the immunization of not less than 75 per cent. of babies before their first birthday. Unhappily, it is estimated that only 47 per cent. of the numbers of babies reaching the age of one year in 1953, within the Council's area were immunized during the year. This decline in the immunization rate is disturbing.

The number of cases of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) was low; there were only five cases notified during the year; one died; two only had paralysis, two escaped paralysis. In previous years the numbers were: —three cases in 1946; three in 1947; six in 1948; four in 1949; nine in 1950; four in 1951, and 14 in 1952.

Measles on the other hand showed a new record number of 896 cases. The graph on page 18 shows the "every-other-year" incidence of epidemic measles. With such a large number of cases, it is to be expected that unusual complications occur.

Of the other acute infections, their numbers were low and call for no special comment.

Reports following sampling by Officers of the County Council showed that milk from certain dairy herds was infected; in three cases milk was infected by tuberculosis and in eleven others it was

infected by brucella organisms—which organisms give rise to “slipped calf” in cattle and to undulant fever in certain human beings. In all cases, however, it was ascertained that the milk was diverted for pasteurization to render it safe prior to being sold for human consumption.

The Council has continued its policy of providing sewerage facilities and undertaking the construction of new sewerage systems within its district. With the coming into operation of the Council’s agreement with the Colne Valley Sewage Disposal Board, the use of the Council’s own sewage Disposal Plant at London Road has been discontinued. The first portion of the sewerage of the Little Chalfont area has now been completed.

The services comprised under the term environmental hygiene, such as water supplies, sewage and sewage disposal, housing and pest control, have worked adequately and safely within the Council’s area during the year under review.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the willing co-operation that the clerical and inspectional staffs of the Public Health Department have given me in all aspects of the work during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. P. EVANS

Medical Officer of Health.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

Section I. General and Vital Statistics.

Statistics and Vital Statistics.
Social Conditions. Area. Population. Rateable Value.
Births and Deaths. Mortality Rates, 1953.

Section II. Health Services.

Hospital Services. Laboratory Services.
Ambulance Facilities (Infectious Diseases). Services.
Hospitals. Home Nursing.

Section III. Infectious Diseases.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.
Notifiable Diseases (Age Groups).
Diphtheria Immunization. Poliomyelitis.

Section IV. Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis. Public Health Regulations, 1925, etc.
New Cases and Mortality Rates, 1953.

Section V. Milk.

Article 20. Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Tuberculosis Order, 1938.
Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.
Section 23. "Specification of Areas."

Section VI. National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951.

Section 47. "Care of Aged Persons" etc.
Section 50. Burials.

Section VII. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Sewerage. Sewage Disposal. Drainage.
Refuse Collection. Cesspool Emptying.
Miniature Sewage Plants. New Houses.

Section VIII. Sanitary Services.

Water Supplies. General Sanitation. Inspections.
Inspection and Supervision of Food, Milk and Ice Cream
(sampling).
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.
Food and Drugs Act. Housing. Moveable Dwellings, etc.

Section IX. Factories Act.

Section X. Miscellaneous. Appendices I to V.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. F. G. CAUDERY, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. W. E. JONES
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

Mr. P. G. TREMAIN, M.S.I.A.
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Mr. R. POWELL, M.S.I.A.
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Clerical Staff:

Mr. T. BALL (Chief Clerk).

Mrs. M. MURPHY.

Mr. L. I. KEEN.

Rodent Officer:

Mr. H. A. SNAPES.

Rodent Operatives:

Mr. T. GLASGOW.

Mr. A. HARMAN (joined Staff 7 April, 1953).

SECTION I.

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

1. Statistics and Vital Statistics.

Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	43,090
Area (Acres) of District	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,233
Number of Habitable Houses (per Rate Book)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,118
Rateable Value of Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	£344,353
Sum Represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,340	2s. 5d.

Amersham Rural District comprises an area of about 72 square miles. It lies in the South-Eastern portion of the County of Bucks., is situate about 25 miles from London and ranges over two spurs of the Chiltern Hills.

Its characteristic physical features are its well wooded slopes and hills. Its social conditions may be described as those due to agricultural, residential and industrial factors. Until 1939, the increase in population was mainly due to its being a London dormitory, but since then there has been a steady flow of selected light industry into the neighbourhood which has absorbed a high proportion of locally available labour. Its proximity to London has also tended to give rise to the development of several well marked urban-type communities within the rural boundaries.

Despite the recent establishment of selected light industries in the district several agencies, including the Council itself, have co-operated to preserve large tracts of woodlands for their amenity value. The provisions of the Green Belt Act and similar powers have enabled large areas of the district to be preserved within the Greater London Planning Region.

On the whole therefore it may be said that whilst there is a limit to the possible development, there is increasingly a tendency toward the better balance of the agricultural, industrial and residential factors in the area.

The area of the Amersham Rural District is 46,233 acres.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for 1953 was 43,090.

The number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book at the end of 1953 was 13,118.

The rateable value of all hereditaments in the District on 31st December was £344,353 and the product of a penny rate for the financial year 1952-3 was £1,340 2s. 5d.

2. Births.

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	13.9
Birth Rate: England and Wales	...	...	...	15.5

(a) *Live Births:*

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	305	277	582
Illegitimate	...	...	5	11	16

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
(b)	<i>Still Births:</i>				
	Legitimate	... ..	3	7	10
	Illegitimate	... ..	—	—	—
	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births				16.7
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
(c)	Deaths from Puerperal causes				
(d)	Deaths of Infants under one year of age				
	Legitimate	... ..	5	2	7
	Illegitimate	... ..	—	—	—
(e)	Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age				
	Legitimate	... ..	2	—	2
	Illegitimate	... ..	—	—	—
<i>Infant Mortality: All Infants per 1,000 live births</i>					11.7
<i>England and Wales per 1,000 related births</i>					26.8

3. Deaths

Death rate per 1,000 population					9.5
Death rate for England and Wales					11.4
<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Males Females Total</i>
1.	Heart Diseases	... ..	26	33	59
2.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	... ..	14	10	24
3.	Bronchitis	... ..	12	2	14
4.	Pneumonia	... ..	12	12	24
5.	Other Respiratory Diseases	... ..	1	1	2
6.	Syphilitic Diseases	... ..	1	—	1
7.	Cancer	... ..	33	42	75
8.	Diabetes	... ..	1	1	2
9.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	... ..	1	—	1
10.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	... ..	2	—	2
11.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	... ..	2	—	2
12.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	... ..	21	34	55
13.	Coronary disease, angina	... ..	38	25	63
14.	Influenza	... ..	6	5	11
15.	Acute Poliomyelitis	... ..	1	—	1
16.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	... ..	1	—	1
17.	Hyperplasia of prostate	... ..	14	—	14
18.	Suicide	... ..	1	1	2
19.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	... ..	1	1	2
20.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	... ..	18	26	44
21.	Motor vehicle accidents	... ..	1	—	1
22.	All other accidents	... ..	5	4	9
					<hr/>
					212 197 409
					<hr/>

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM (Rural Districts only)
Populations, Birth and Mortality Rates for the Year 1953

<i>District</i>	<i>Population Census 1951</i>	<i>Registrar- General estimated Population Mid-1953</i>	<i>Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Popul't'n</i>	<i>Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Popul't'n</i>	<i>Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000 Births</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births</i>	<i>Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births</i>	<i>Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still-births</i>
Amersham	41,432	43,090	13.9	9.5	0.02	11.7	3.3	—
Aylesbury	29,543	31,520	13.8	10.9	0.13	25.2	20.6	—
Buckingham	9,422	10,180	13.8	6.8	0.20	7.1	—	—
Eton	43,120	44,170	15.8	9.4	0.11	33.0	24.4	—
Newport Pagnell	13,817	14,050	13.5	10.2	0.28	15.9	15.9	—
Wing	9,042	9,030	16.9	11.0	0.11	32.7	19.6	—
Winslow	7,268	7,550	14.6	17.6	—	—	—	—
Wycombe	39,352	41,110	15.6	9.3	—	20.2	10.9	1.54
TOTAL	192,996	200,700	14.8	9.9	0.08	21.2	13.8	0.33
ENGLAND & WALES	—	—	15.5	11.4	0.20	26.8	—	0.76

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1953.

(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.)

	England and Wales	160 C.B's and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
Births :				
Live Births	15.3	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still „	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
	22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	21.0(a)
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping Cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non-Paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food-Poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths				
All causes under 1 year of age	27.6(b)	31.2	25.8	23.8
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

<i>Intermediate List No. and cause</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births</i>	<i>Rates per Million women aged 15-44</i>
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	68	0.10	
A116 Abortion with toxæmia	7	0.01	1
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	166	0.24	
A117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	90	0.13	
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	30	0.04	3
A119 Abortion with sepsis	39	0.06	4
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

(a) *Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births*

(b) *Per 1,000 related Live Births.*

SECTION II.

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital Services

The Amersham Rural District is situate within the area of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The Board has delegated management responsibilities of hospitals in this area to High Wycombe and District Management Committee which in turn has delegated day to day administration to two "House Committees." One House Committee is responsible for the Amersham General Hospital, the Chesham Hospital and The Stone Maternity Hospital. The other is responsible for the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of Infectious Disease.

The Regional Public Health Laboratories are situated at Oxford and Luton, and in general, undertake free of charge the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc.

The chemical examination of water and sewage effluent is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

The following specimens have been examined at the laboratories of the Public Health Services:

	<i>Number</i>
Nasal Swabs	4
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli, Haemolytic Streptococci and Vincent's Angina	33
Faeces	8
Soil and Sewage	2
Ice Cream	67
Lollies	7
Milk Samples	81
Miscellaneous Samples for Analysis	4
Water Samples:	
Drinking Water	41
River (Watercress Beds)	2

Ambulance Facilities

Infectious Disease Ambulances

Aylesbury Infectious Disease Hospital—One Ambulance.

Ambulance Service.

Provided by the County Council for the conveyance of persons who, for medical reasons, are unable to travel by public transport.

The County Transport and Ambulance Service has been re-organised and the Headquarters are now at 5, Buckingham Road, Aylesbury. Tel. Aylesbury 375 (7 lines).

In addition to Headquarters, the nearest main station is situated at Old Fire Station, High Street, Chesham, Tel. Chesham 128, to which application for transport should be made direct.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Service

NATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA

<i>Districts Served</i>	<i>Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurse.</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Amersham Amersham Common Chesham Bois Coleshill Winchmore Hill	Miss B. Bywater, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. and Miss M. R. Taylor, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 7 First Avenue, Amersham.	Amersham 374
Chalfont St. Giles Seer Green Jordans Chorley Wood (Bucks Area)	Miss M. C. Bott, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Bay Cottage, White Hart La., Chalfont St. Giles. *Miss H. E. Carey, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Beech Cottage, Gorelands La., Chalfont St. Giles.	Chal. St. G. 413 Chal. St. G. 87
Chalfont St. Peter Gold Hill	Miss K. M. Clark, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. and Miss U. A. Daniels, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., "Strathlene," Lower Road, Chalfont St. Peter.	Gerr. X 2559
Lee Common The Lee Chartridge Ballinger Swan Bottom	Mrs. V. Woodward, S.C.M., Church Cottage, The Lee, Gt. Missenden.	The Lee 213
Ashley Green Whelpley Hill Ley Hill Lye Green Latimer & Chenies	*Miss M. Bly, S.R.N., S.C.M. Shenley Cottage, Ley Hill, Chesham.	Chesham 238
Holmer Green Penn Street Penn Forty Green Knotty Green Tylers Green	Miss I. M. Cobb, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 8 Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe.	Penn 3327
Little Hampden Little Kingshill Hyde Heath Little Missenden	*Miss J. D. MacDonald, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Nurse's Cottage, Rignall Road, Gt. Missenden.	Gt. Miss. 71

Districts Served

Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurse.

Telephone

Hawridge
Bellingdon
Asheridge
Buckland Common
St. Leonards
Cholesbury
The Vale, Chesham

*Miss D. Heaton, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
Q.N., Nurse's Bungalow, Sandpit
Hill, Buckland Common, Nr. Tring,
Herts.

Cholesbury
269

Prestwood
Gt. Kingshill
Spurlands End
Heath End

*Miss H. M. E. Coulson, S.R.N.,
S.C.M., Q.N., Chestnut Cottage,
Prestwood, Great Missenden.

Gt. Miss.
209

*These Nurses hold the Health Visitors Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The above District Nurses do not attend infectious cases. Those cases that cannot be properly nursed by relatives, or properly isolated, are sent into the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

Clinic and Treatment Centres

There are 13 Infant Welfare Centres—namely at Amersham-on-the-Hill; Whielden Street, Amersham; Chalfont St. Giles; Chalfont St. Peter; Chartridge (Lee Common); Winchmore Hill; Great Missenden; Little Chalfont; Hillside Road, Chorley Wood; Holmer Green; Tylers Green; Seer Green and Cholesbury.

Immunization against Diphtheria is carried out at most of the above Infant Welfare Centres.

School Clinics

At Chesham (Germain Street) Ophthalmic, Dental and Orthopaedic (not restricted to children of school age). At Chalfont St. Peter, Ophthalmic and Ear, Nose and Throat at the Cottage Hospital.

Patients are also sent to the Orthopaedic Clinics at Aylesbury and at Chesham.

HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Hospitals For Non-infectious Diseases

(a) Within the District:

Chalfont St. Peter Cottage Hospital.

Beds 36, Men 10, Women 14, Children 5, Private 7.

Massage and Electrical treatment are carried out and there is a fully equipped X-ray apparatus.

There is also a General Hospital at St. Mary's, Whielden Street, Amersham.

(b) *Outside the District:*

(i) Chesham Cottage Hospital.

Beds 21, Men 8, Women 7, Children 5 and 1 private ward.

There are facilities for X-ray examinations.

Massage and Electrical treatment

(ii) Royal Bucks County Hospital at Aylesbury.

(iii) The War Memorial Hospital at High Wycombe.

As the District is only about 25 miles from London, patients are frequently sent to one or other of the London Hospitals.

For Infectious Diseases. (Other than Small Pox or Tuberculosis).

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

(c) *Others:*

The Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common, Reading.

The Colony for Epileptics at Chalfont St. Peter is also within the District.

SECTION III

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Prevalence of Notifiable Diseases
Cases notified during 1953; numbers admitted to hospitals and deaths; notifications 1946-1953.

	Cases Notified 1953	Cases Admitted to Hospital 1953	Deaths 1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Measles	878	10	—	169	865	198	416	200	465	94
Whooping Cough	79	1	—	45	98	64	38	158	97	102
Scarlet Fever	59	11	—	31	26	93	38	34	46	49
Pneumonia	13	4	24	8	19	6	8	6	7	10
Poliomyelitis—										
(a) Paralytic	3	3	1	11	4	9	4	6	3	3
(b) Non-Paralytic	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
(a) Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post Infectious	15	15	—	14	10	—	1	2	6	13
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	1	—	3	1	4	4	2	4	6
Erysipelas	2	—	—	3	2	1	18	—	1	1
Dysentery	2	1	—	3	2	7	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	3	2	3	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	1	—
Paratyphoid B	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever (not notifiable)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis	24	—	1	29	34	25	44	24	21	34
Pulmonary	8	—	—	3	5	7	6	10	7	11
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups

DISEASES	Cases Notified												
	Total Cases at all ages	Years											
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	59	—	2	4	10	41	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	878	16	61	84	102	481	40	17	17	8	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	79	8	9	11	4	36	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1
Pneumonia	13	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	3	5	2	2
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	5	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	3	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	1059	25	58	72	100	561	46	20	32	15	10	3	3

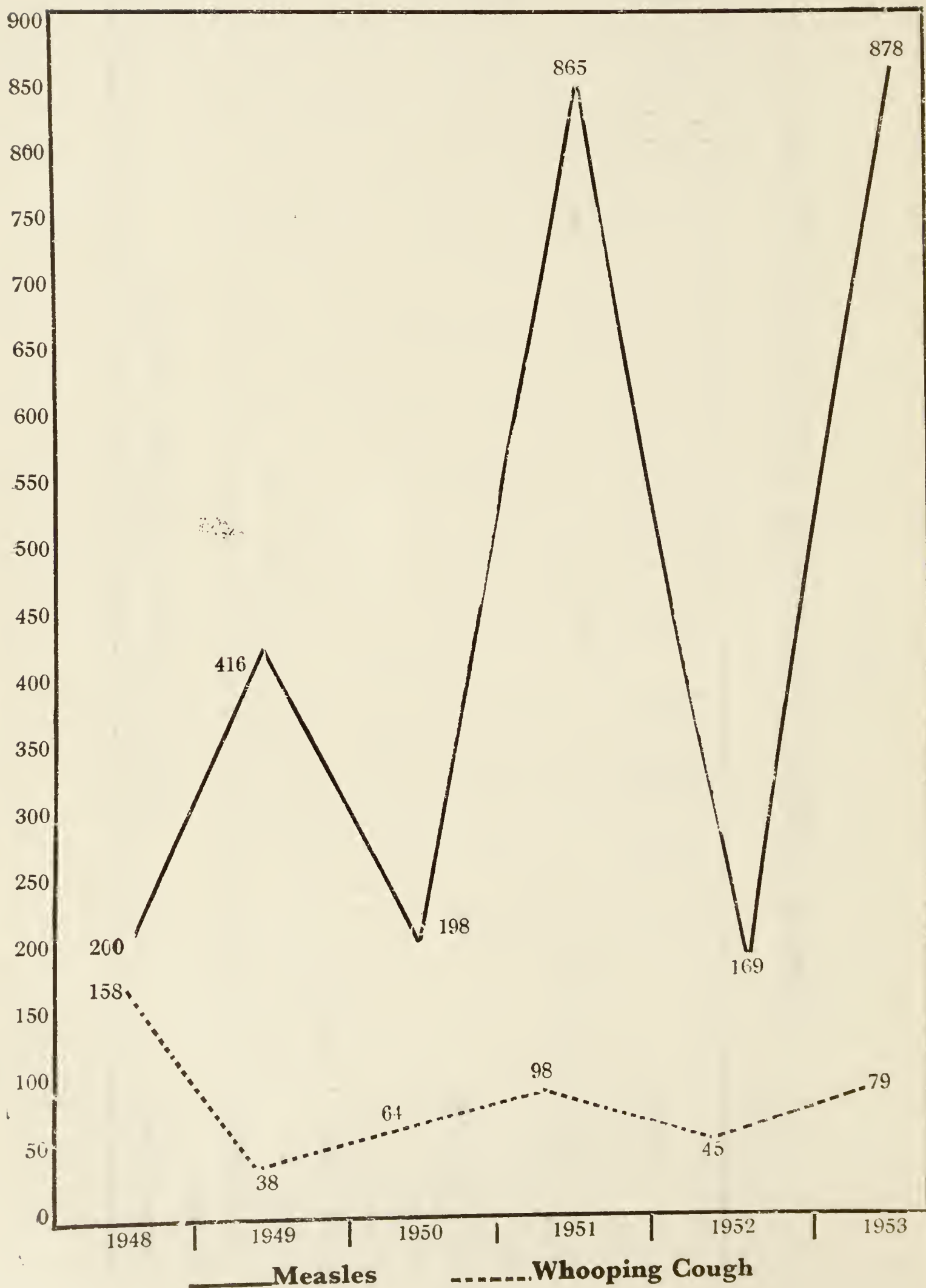
Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	11	4	3	9	7	2	4	2	—	1	6	10
Measles ...	81	250	289	83	52	58	59	3	—	1	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	4	6	14	3	14	2	6	6	10	13
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia ...	1	4	5	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1

Cases of Notifiable Diseases occurring in each Parish in the Area.

Disease	Amersham	Ashley Green	Chalfont St. Giles	Chalfont St. Peter	Chartridge	Chenies	Chesham Bois	Cholesbury	Coleshill	Latimer	The Lee	Great Missenden	Little Missenden	Penn	Seer Green
Scarlet Fever	9	—	8	14	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	12	4	6	4
Measles	304	7	92	219	16	13	49	5	14	7	—	72	28	22	30
Whooping Cough	42	—	—	4	1	1	1	—	4	—	—	14	6	6	—
Erysipelas	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	—
Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTIFICATIONS
MEASLES and WHOOPING COUGH
1948-1953



POLIOMYELITIS

In my Annual Report for 1952, in discussing this disease I made two suggestions: (1) that the outcome of the disease was not so generally or well understood as it might be and (2) that there was a secure basis for renewed hope of discovering an effective and safe protective vaccine against the disease.

It is probably true that more advances have been made in the understanding of poliomyelitis during the past decade than during the past half century, but its increasing incidence has provoked amongst the population an interest in the disease amounting to panic. The interest in this disease is not solely, or even mainly, because of the number of deaths caused by the disease, for these have been comparatively slight. Only 2,577 persons were killed by poliomyelitis in England and Wales in the five years from 1947 to 1951, an average of 500 per year. This modest total is overwhelmingly surpassed by other diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis, peptic ulcer and violence which are meekly accepted by the public as necessary evils. It is however, pertinently pointed out that the panic due to poliomyelitis is related not so much to the death-rate as to the fact that it disables far more persons than it kills; that it frequently selects the school child and the young adult as its victims, and that the degree of paralysis remaining in its victims represents an almost permanent and lasting memorial of all its dangers and hazards. Death is silent and soon forgotten; the paralytic child is a never-ending warning to those who pass by.

Reports from Australia say that injections have been given to protect against poliomyelitis on entering an epidemic area. This may have caused a widespread impression that there is now some effective method of active immunization against the disease. It is understood, however, that the material—gamma globulin—used was calculated to afford passive protection for the limited period of a visit to the epidemic area. In these very special circumstances no one will question the wisdom of taking this precaution, even though absolute proof of its efficacy does not exist. In a disease some of whose features are rather mysterious, it is not surprising that the extensive use of gamma globulin in the United States has failed to give this proof. Nevertheless experimental, as distinct from clinical, test is reassuring.

Active immunization presents formidable difficulties, perhaps greater than those for any other infectious disease. Nevertheless, in spite of the difficulties, it is confidently expected that a live attenuated and harmless vaccine for immunization will be produced within the next few years. Indeed, the first large-scale trial of such a vaccine is now being undertaken in America. The children are between the ages of six and nine years, and the aim is to inoculate 5,000 of them. It is, however, only right to point out that until active immunization is available to the general public the masses will be dependant on receiving repeated small doses of infection for the acquisition of collec-

tive immunity. Indeed, even if and when we have a reliable vaccine and a co-operative public, we may still have to rely on repeated small doses of the virus from infected persons to maintain the immunity started by the vaccine.

DIPHTHERIA

	Under							
Primary	1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Immunization	220	176	8	9	8	16	2	450
Re-immunization	—	—	—	—	38	318	22	378

This is the seventh successive year during which no case of diphtheria has been notified to me from within the Council's area. The incidence of diphtheria, in the United Kingdom as a whole, continues to fall. This trend is shown by the number of deaths during the past 50 years. In 1901 the number of deaths in the U.K. was 9,761; in 1940, the number was 2,466, whilst in 1953 the number was reduced to 24.

The elimination of the disease is, however, conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunization against diphtheria in the child population, and it is generally agreed that this level is assured when not less than 75 per cent. of babies are immunized before their first birthday. From the year-by-year record of the number of immunizations carried out within the Council's area, it is estimated that only about 47 per cent. of babies were immunized before their first birthday during 1953. Everyone will agree that this decline in the local immunization rate is disturbing, but it is even more so when it is realised that this local decline follows the national decline in immunization. In the United Kingdom as a whole, only 28 per cent. of babies reaching the age of one year in 1951 were immunized, in 1952 the figure was 31 per cent., and in the first half of 1953, it was 31.5 per cent., that is, less than half the numbers considered necessary to maintain an adequate level of immunization for the elimination of the disease.

The reason for stressing this need for immunization is found in the experience of a Northern City where during the past four years 340 children contracted diphtheria, and of the 340, 11 died. It may, of course, with reason be pointed out that roughly only three in a hundred cases proved fatal, which, for a serious disease like diphtheria, is not sensational. Such a statement however is quite beside the point. For to-day, diphtheria is a preventable disease, and the significant thing is that not one of the unfortunate 11 had been immunized against diphtheria.

It will be readily agreed that large-scale immunization against diphtheria has, in the country as a whole, reduced deaths from the disease to insignificant figures. Unfortunately there appears to be a growing tendency amongst mothers to believe that since the disease now causes so few deaths there is less need to have their children immunized. Such apathy is fatal.

SECTION IV.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5	1	1	.	2	.	.	.	.
15	2	4	.	2	.	.	.	.
25	3	2	1	.	.	.	.	.
35	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.
45	4	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
55	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
65 & over	1	1	.	.	1	.	.	.
	14	10	2	6	1	.	.	.

P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

Tuberculosis

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

SECTION V.

MILK

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—Article 20

Under Article 20 of the above Regulations, a Medical Officer of Health who is satisfied that any person is suffering from disease caused by the consumption of milk, or if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person is so suffering, or that the milk is infected with an organism capable of causing disease in man, may serve a notice prohibiting the sale of such milk unless it has been treated in such a way as to secure to his satisfaction that it may, with safety, be sold for human consumption. A dairy farmer, on whom such notice is served, is entitled to compensation for damage or loss by reason of the notice served.

The common causes of infected milk are the organisms of brucella and the organisms of tuberculosis. The staff of the Chief Inspector of the County Council is assiduous in the performance of its duties in the taking of samples in this area. During the year, reports have been received showing that bulk samples of milk from three farms within the area were found to contain the organisms of tuberculosis, and that samples from eleven farms within the district were found to contain the organisms of brucella—the organisms which, in pregnant cattle, give rise to abortion, “slipped calf” or a dead calf. Estimates of the prevalence of infection of milk by the organisms of brucella in Great Britain at the present time are complicated by widespread vaccination with Strain 19 vaccine. Before governmental measures were taken, it was shown that because of brucella, about 9.7 per cent. pregnancies in cattle terminated abnormally (about 5.4 per cent. in abortion, and another 4.3 per cent. with a dead calf). In human beings brucellosis is not a notifiable disease, and realistic estimates are difficult. There is, however, reason to believe that throughout the country there are at least 500 cases per annum.

Milk which is infected or suspected to be infected with brucella presents a difficult problem. A cow excreting milk infected by brucella cannot be detected clinically, and further, the period of excretion may be quite short—about two months, while the bacteriological test necessary to demonstrate the presence of brucella in milk takes six weeks. Thus it might quite well be that during the period required for the bacteriological examination the cow may have ceased to excrete brucella in the milk. These difficulties are added to when it is realised that there is no quick and reliable test for the presence of the organism.

Experience in this district has shown that most farmers are well aware of the provisions of these regulations and it is invariably found that the milk is not sold “raw” to the public, but is rendered safe for human consumption by heat-treatment, either by the H.T.S.T. process or pasteurization. The question of compensation has not arisen in this connection during the year under review.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938

Following sampling, the milk at three farms within the district was found to contain the organisms of tuberculosis, and the number of cattle slaughtered on the recommendation of the Divisional Veterinary Offices of the Ministry was two.

I understand that in all, 1,518 samples of milk were taken for investigation, from herds throughout the county by the staff of the Chief Inspector of the Bucks County Council during the year. This sampling involved milk from about 20,000 cows. Twenty-seven samples were found to be tuberculous. It is worthy of note that in none of the schools, children's homes, hostels or nurseries run by the County Council was found a sample of infected milk; and that these institutions, schools, etc., are all supplied either with T.T. or pasteurised milk.

No raw milk can be regarded as safe; not even that from cattle which are attested free from tuberculosis under the tuberculin-testing scheme. For, even such designated milk as tuberculin-tested milk may contain the organism of disease other than tuberculosis, e.g. scarlet fever. When cattle within an attested herd are found to be tuberculous, because there is no other way of dealing with them they find their way into a non-attested herd, and thereby increase the risk of tuberculosis in raw undesignated milk.

FOOD AND DRUGS (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream)

ACT 1950. Section 23.

Specification of Areas.

The Minister of Food is empowered under this Section to make Orders specifying areas within which all milk sold by retail must conform to the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurized and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 and 1950.

This means that within such specified areas milk of a special designation only (that is, Pasteurized, Sterilized or tuberculin-tested milk or, until September 30th, 1954, Accredited Milk from a single herd) may be sold.

Four such Orders specifying areas in England and Wales have already been made by the Minister, and on the 30th November, 1953, a new and further Order became operative. This new Order included the following areas: — (1) NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE and District; (2) SOUTH ESSEX; (3) READING and District, and (4) PLYMOUTH and SOUTH DEVON. It is noticed that under Section (3) READING and District, certain areas in the South-east portion of Bucks are included, e.g. the Borough of Slough, the Urban Districts of Beaconsfield and Eton and Marlow. It is very interesting to note that taking into account the areas that have already been specified, the milk supplies of 48 per cent. of the population of England and Wales will, when the specifications of the four new areas are taken into account, consist of specially designated milk. It is understood that other areas in Bucks are being surveyed at present.

SECTION VI.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 to 1951

These Acts have been described as the final step in the break-up of the old Poor Law, the repeal of which was widely welcomed as it had, in the main, outlived its usefulness. The duties imposed by the Poor Law were transferred in many instances to Local Authorities, and certain duties, namely those under Sections 47 and 50 of the above Acts became the responsibilities of District Councils.

Section 47

The provisions of this Section have for their purpose the securing of the necessary care and attention for persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

During 1953 two such cases have been dealt with in this manner, but the full procedure of taking the extreme steps of applying to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction or to a single justice having jurisdiction in the place where the premises are situated in which the person in respect of whom the application is made resides, has not been used.

The disposal of these cases was as follows. Mrs. G. aged 80, a person suffering from a grave and chronic disease, refused medical attention and being unable to devote to herself, nor receiving proper care and attention from others, was removed to Part III accommodation at Amersham General Hospital. Miss S. aged 76, also suffering from grave chronic disease, in similar circumstances, was removed to Part III accommodation at Winslow Hospital.

At the request of medical practitioners and others in the area I have made many visits to homes to ascertain whether the person resident there comes within the definition laid down in Section 47: most of the cases do not, in my view. They are usually persons living alone where the only complaint is not that of sickness, but of inability to devote *all* the care and attention to themselves that modern conditions require. For such people there is an urgent need for the provision of an Old People's Home or Hostel within the Rural District.

Section 50

Under this Section of the above Acts, the duty is placed upon the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or been found dead in their area. This duty is exercisable only when it appears to the Council that no other suitable arrangements have been or are being made.

During the past year, the duty imposed by this Section has been performed in three cases as defined above.

SECTION VII.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR FOR THE YEAR 1953

Refuse Collection Service

As in previous years the service has been undermanned. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable staff, and with the increasing number of properties, no improvement in the service has been possible. Consideration is being given to the purchase of a new type of vehicle by which means it is hoped that travelling time between the Refuse Tip and the working area will be reduced, thereby allowing for more actual collection time.

To offset the staff shortage it has been necessary to work a considerable amount of overtime, but this is limited in the winter months.

A weekly service has, however, been maintained in part of the area, except for a time in the winter months and at the peak of the annual holiday period. In the remainder of the area the average period between collections has been about nine days.

No additions have been made to the fleet of nine vehicles which has operated throughout the year.

Cesspool Emptying Service

The demands on this service are still increasing, partly due to new house construction in areas where main drainage is not available and partly to the increasing number of existing properties which have in the past only made very infrequent requests for the service and which are now making regular applications.

A small measure of relief has been obtained by implementing the Council's decision to charge for cesspool emptying where a sewer is available for main drainage within 100 feet of the property. This has resulted in many owners making the necessary connection and in other cases the periods between emptyings have been longer, presumably by economy of water by the householder.

Six 800-gallon capacity vehicles have been in operation throughout the year and to meet the demand a considerable amount of overtime has been worked. The total number of loads removed during the year was 17,647 and the mileage of the vehicles 88,417.

Drainage and Sewerage

The areas provided with main drainage are Amersham, Chesham Bois, Little Missenden, part of Great Missenden and the development known as Chenies Estate adjoining Chorley Wood.

During the year the main drainage scheme for Little Chalfont

(Section 1) has been completed and it is hoped that the Ministry will give early approval to the 2nd section in the New Year. Extensions to existing sewers have been made to provide main drainage for new development and existing development with unsatisfactory cesspool drainage, these being as follows:—

Sewer Extensions Completed in 1953

	yds.	£	s.	d.
Loudhams Road	130	456	0	0
Mitchell Walk	200	667	8	10
Glebe Outfall Sewer	66	273	7	4
Fieldway 1st Section	16	126	10	0
Upways and Winkers Lane	218	553	7	8
Lodge Lane 1st Section	85	140	0	0
High Street, Chalfont St. Peter	50	373	4	8

The contract in the sum of £618 19s. 0d. for the 2nd section of sewer extensions in Lodge Lane was signed in 1953, but the work has not yet been commenced.

The connection of properties to the main drainage, particularly in Chalfont St. Peter and Chalfont St. Giles, has continued but on a much reduced scale. When two additional sewer extensions (The Lagger, Chalfont St. Giles, and Fieldway, Chalfont St. Peter) have been carried out, the main problems within the areas will have been overcome.

The remedial works on the main sewer in Amershaw High Street were commenced in November and subject to the sub-soil level permitting it is proposed to continue these works in the New Year.

In co-operation with the Colne Valley Sewerage Board, the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act 1937 has been operated where applicable.

On Council Housing Estates where connection to the main drainage scheme has not been possible, separate sewage treatment plants are installed. These now total 25, an increase of two over the previous year. The effluent from these works is disposed of into deep soakaways (after chlorination in the case of recently constructed works), but difficulty is being experienced on certain works, the soakaways failing to deal with the flow.

Housing

The construction of new houses has proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year. The difficulty of finding and agreeing suitable sites takes a considerable time, but the long-term planning of the Progress and Works Sub-Committee has provided a continuity of building.

During the course of the year there has been a fall in price of some building materials but these have been offset by increased prices in other materials and labour. New contracts let during the year

have been for the 1952 type house, these being a revised design of the 1951 type, the object being to reduce building costs to a minimum.

The number of properties controlled by the Council at 31st December, 1953, with a comparison of 31st December, 1952, is as follows:—

					<i>December</i> 1952	<i>December</i> 1953
Pre-war houses	...	...	...	...	658	658
Post-war houses	...	...	...	...	967	1,228
Prefabricated bungalows	...	...	...	...	90	90
War-time buildings converted	...	...	...	...	7	7
Requisitioned and other properties	...	...	...	...	17	6
Vache Park Estates (camp site)	...	...	...	...	117	51
Beech Barn Estate	„	...	...	...	33	21
Woodlands Park Estate	„	...	...	...	29	28
Pipers Wood Estate	„	...	...	...	33	20
Hodgemoor Estate	„	...	...	...	177	177
Other Properties	...	...	...	...	7	7
					<hr/> 2,135 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,293 <hr/>

SECTION VIII.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1953

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

The work of the Inspectors during the year has been of a varied and general nature. Day to day routine and the meat inspection work at the two slaughterhouses prevented concentration to any degree on any particular section of the work. So far as possible, however, continuous attention has been given to premises where food is sold or prepared for consumption on the premises. The co-operation of the catering trade has continued to be most helpful and it has not been necessary to resort to statutory powers.

In the southern part of the district the sewers are now in operation and the owners of licensed premises are going ahead with the improvements to sanitation in accordance with the notices served upon them. The easing of the licensing position has also helped considerably in this matter.

There was a further increase in the number of pigs slaughtered at the bacon factories at Amersham and Prestwood and the Inspectors have had to do a considerable amount of overtime to ensure 100 per cent. inspection of the carcasses.

Housing has again received a considerable amount of attention but the nation-wide difficulty of the high cost of repairs and the operation of the Rent Restrictions Acts militates against the progress which one would like to make.

Water Supply

Samples of water were taken from the public mains of each of the Statutory Water Undertakings operating in the area, and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. In each case the report of the Analyst was satisfactory. The results of the analytical reports are given in the Appendix—Section X—of this Report.

On the 1st July the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company became amalgamated with the Great Berkhamstead Water Company.

Details are given below of an extension of the water main, which has been carried out during the year:—

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Approx. length of Extension in yds.</i>	<i>Size of Pipe</i>
The Old Chapel, Hyde Heath ...	Little Missenden ...	187	3 in.

The cost to the Council for carrying out the above extension was £200.

Negotiations were also commenced for further extensions of the water main to two cottages in Cherry Tree Lane, Lee Common and Tankards Dene, Hawridge.

Forty-three samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination, as follows:—

	<i>Source of Supply</i>			
<i>Rainwater</i>	<i>Bore</i>	<i>Well</i>	<i>Public Mains</i>	<i>River</i>
16	17	4	4	2

The reports of the Bacteriologist on 32 of the samples were satisfactory, and the reports on the other 11 samples indicated contamination in varying degrees. Appropriate action was taken in these cases.

During the year one Informal and one Formal Notice to provide a piped supply of water were served and complied with.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The following is a summary of Sanitary Inspectors' visits during the year:—

General Sanitation

<i>Nature of Inspection or Visit</i>					<i>No.</i>
Water Supply (including sampling) ...	...	...	...	...	138
Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	354
Stables and Piggeries ...	...	...	...	...	47
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	...	...	...	...	150
Outworkers ...	...	...	...	...	12
Public Conveniences ...	...	...	...	...	2
Theatres and Places of Entertainment ...	...	...	...	...	2
Refuse Collection: Refuse Disposal ...	...	...	...	...	11
Rats and Mice ...	...	...	...	...	8
Smoke Observation ...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools ...	...	...	...	...	2
Shops Acts ...	...	...	...	...	7
Licensed Premises ...	...	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	258
<i>Informal Notices</i>		<i>Statutory Notices</i>			
Served:	88	Served:			7
Complied with:	70	Complied with:			5

Housing

No. of Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ...	...	58
Re-visits paid to above Houses ...	...	256
No. of Houses inspected under Housing Acts ...	...	82
Re-visits paid to above Houses ...	...	174
No. of Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding ...	...	16
Re-visits paid to above Houses ...	...	6
No. of Houses Inspected for Vermin ...	...	5
Re-visits paid to above Houses ...	...	4
Visits in connection with Rural Housing Survey ...	...	119
Miscellaneous ...	...	321

Infectious Disease

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	82
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	...	32
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	36

Meat and Food Inspection

Meat Inspection, Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	412
Other Premises	...	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	...	42
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	...	60
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	2
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	29
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	34
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	30
Restaurants	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	9
Visits in connection with Milk Sampling	93
Ice Cream Sampling	73

Pet Animals Act 1951

No. of Visits or Inspections	4
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Game Act, 1931

No. of Game Licences renewed	10
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Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936

No. of Licences renewed	107
No. of Licences issued	3
No. of Visits made	...	...	...	...	75

Factories Act, 1937

No. of Factories on register at end of year	...	...	...	134
No. of Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	82
No. of Defects Found	...	...	...	6
No. of Defects Remedied	...	...	...	6

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

No. of Premises registered	3
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Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

No. of Slaughterman's Licences renewed	5
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Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply

The Sanitary Inspectors continued to obtain and submit routine samples of milk for bacteriological examination, details of which are given below:—

<i>Tuberculin Tested. (Certified)</i>	<i>Pasteurised.</i>	<i>Tuberculin Tested. (Pasteurised)</i>	<i>Ungraded.</i>	<i>Sterilised.</i>
7	41	7	24	2

Of these 67 proved “satisfactory”, but the results of six samples were “unsatisfactory”, six “fairly satisfactory” and two “fair”.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

During the year 35 licences were issued under the above Regulations, 21 to use the designation “Tuberculin Tested”, nine to use the designation “Pasteurised” and five to use the designation “Sterilised”.

Ice Cream

Sixty-seven samples of ice cream and seven lollies were submitted for bacteriological examination and were graded as follows:—

<i>Ice Cream</i>				<i>Lollies</i>		
Grade 1	...	...	39	Satisfactory	...	3
Grade 2	...	...	15	Fairly satisfactory	...	3
Grade 3	...	...	5	Unsatisfactory	...	1
Grade 4	...	...	8			

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

A total of 55,417 pigs was slaughtered at the Prestwood and Amersham Slaughterhouses and the following table gives details of the number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and with Tuberculosis only. The figures show an increase in the number of pigs slaughtered and also in the percentage affected with disease. The total amount of meat and offal condemned at the Slaughterhouses was 26 tons 11 cwt. 7 lbs.

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	-	-	-	-	55,417
Number inspected	-	-	-	-	55,417
<u>All diseases except</u>					
<u>Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	124
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	2	-	-	1599
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	-	-	-	-	3.1
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	27
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1411
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.54

Other Foodstuffs

The details of other foodstuffs condemned during the year are as follows:—

Carcase Meat	...	...	...	...	...	571 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	15 "
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	47 "
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	50 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Processed Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	10 packets
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	32 "
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	...	1 "
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	14 jars
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	43 "
Honey	...	...	...	...	...	6 "
Peanut Butter	...	...	...	...	...	6 "
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	...	1 "

Tinned Goods

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	768 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	1,393 "
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	2,883 "
Milk and Cream	...	...	...	...	...	1,050 "
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	332 "
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	160 "

Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	147	„
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	„
Tomato Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	„
Irish Stew	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	„
Steak Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	„
Pease Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	„
Apple Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	„
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	„
Meat and Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	„
Tomato Paste	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Chestnut Puree	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Coffee Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„

Rodent Infestation and Destruction, etc.

The work of destruction, etc., of rats and mice as required by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, continued throughout the year. The work of the Rodent Officer and the two operatives is summarised as follows:—

No. of Premises inspected for rats and mice, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3,388
No. of Premises treated for rats and mice, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	*694
No. of Premises visited for glis-glís	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. of glis-glís destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	56

* This figure includes the treatment of 163 premises for which charges were made.

The following information is extracted from Form PDP/R.2:—

Type and total estimated number of premises:

Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,830
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	585
Agricultural Property	...	...	...	...	...	...	270

Class of Infestations:

Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	612

Complaints in connection with other rodents, rabbits, squirrels, etc., were passed as received to the County Agricultural Executive Committee at Stoke Mandeville.

Disinfections and Disinfestations

Disinfection of Premises . . . for T.B.	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ for other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3
Disinfestation of Premises for fleas	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ „ for other insects	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bedding	...	...	...	...	...	1

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Section 14.

During the year 12 premises were registered under the above Section, 11 for the manufacture and/or sale of ice cream, and one for the frying of fish, making a total in the register of 123 premises registered, 107 for the manufacture, sale or storage of ice cream, 13 for the preparation and manufacture of sausages and preserved foods and three for fish frying.

Watercress Beds

Further samples of water were obtained from a watercress bed and submitted for bacteriological examination; the result of the first sample was unsatisfactory but two further samples taken at a later date proved satisfactory.

Housing

Housing defects were again mainly dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Fifteen cottages were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered so fit, and in six cases undertakings were given by the owner not to re-let until a scheme of reconditioning had been accepted by the Council and carried out. Nine cottages were demolished as a result of informal and formal action.

Very limited progress has been made in connection with the Rural Housing Survey owing to more urgent work requiring the attention of the Department.

The provisions of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, are now more widely known: ten applications for an Improvement Grant were received during the year and approval was given by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to nine. Other enquiries were received and investigated and may still result in application being made.

In connection with the camp sites, the Council continued its policy of demolition of the individual huts as and when they became vacant in four of the five camps: the condition of many of these huts has caused concern to the Officers of the Public Health Department over a long period.

The following is a summary of defects remedied by Formal and Informal action:

Cesspool accommodation repaired or provided	...	...	1
Drains repaired, altered or renewed	...	...	23
New W.C. pans provided	...	...	4
Dampness abated:			
1. Repairs to roof	...	...	7
2. Repairs to rainwater pipes	...	...	3
3. Repairs to rainwater guttering	...	...	7
4. Repairs to external walls	...	...	5

Repairs to wall and ceiling plaster	12
Repairs to roofs, walls and chimneys	9
Repairs to floors	2
Repairs to cooking ranges and grates	4
Repairs to doors and windows	6

Moveable Dwellings

The Council approved an additional 34 applications for licences to erect, station and use moveable dwellings and the total number of licences current on 31st December, 1953, was 104.

The licensed sites at Chartridge and St. Leonards have been satisfactorily maintained and the amenities at the Chartridge site have been considerably improved.

Verminous Premises

A number of different types of premises were disinfested during the year, and in most cases a five per cent. solution of D.D.T. was used. Smoke generators were also used with considerable success. The above were used against fleas, bed bugs, etc.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I of the ACT

1. Inspections for purposes as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Number of			M/c line No.
			Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	13	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	2	125	69	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Authority + (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		134	82	2	—	

2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	1	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	3	3	—	—	—	9
(a) insufficient	10	1	1	—	—	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes							
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	60	4	5	—	—	—	60

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS (Sections 110 and 111)

The number of outworkers notified in accordance with Section 110 (i) (c) was 41. They were engaged in Brush making (34), Wearing Apparel (6) and Textile Weaving (1).

SECTION X.

MISCELLANEOUS

Staff Examinations (Superannuation, etc.)

Number examined	10
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Rehousing on Medical Grounds

Number of cases investigated	224
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National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

Section 50—Number of Burials arranged	3
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Section 47—Number of cases investigated as in need of care and attention	2
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Number of cases removed to hospital or other institutions by Court Order	Nil
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APPENDIX I

Borough of Southwark,
Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.41

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of Water from rising service main. Water supplied by
Bucks Water Board.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Reaction (pH)	...	...	...	...	8.5
					Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	149
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	14.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.0033
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	2.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	...	...	0.31
Hardness, Temporary	...	...	...	...	60
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	...	30
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	...	90
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc)	...	...	...	...	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37° C.	...	2 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20° C.	...	0 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	...	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that this water is of high
chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and
domestic use.

(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.

APPENDIX II

Borough of Southwark,
Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.43

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of Water from rising service main. Water supplied by
Gt. Berkhamsted Water Co.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Reaction (pH)	...	...	...	...	7.2
					Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	289
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	15.5
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	4.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Hardness, Temporary	...	...	...	...	225
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	...	30
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	...	255
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc)	...	...	...	...	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37° C.	...	...	...	0 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20° C.	...	...	...	0 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	...	...	...	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that this water is of high
chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and
domestic use.

(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.

APPENDIX III

Borough of Southwark,
Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.42

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of Water from rising service main. Water supplied by Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co. through Amersham Pumping Station.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Reaction (pH)	...	...	...	...	7.2
					Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	360
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	16.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	2.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	...	...	0.03
Hardness, Temporary	...	...	...	...	260
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	...	36
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	...	296
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc)	...	...	...	...	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37° C.	...	1 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20° C.	...	1 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	...	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that this water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.

APPENDIX IV

Borough of Southwark,
Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.45

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of Water from rising service main. Water supplied by Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co. through Deep Mill Pumping Station.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Reaction (pH)	...	...	...	...	7.2
					Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	376
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	16.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.002
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.002
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	5.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)					0.08
Hardness, Temporary	...	...	...	...	260
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	...	44
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	...	304
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc)	...	...	...	...	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 38° C.	...	1 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20° C.	...	2 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	...	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that this water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.

APPENDIX V

Borough of Southwark,
Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.44

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of Water from rising service main. Water supplied by Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co. through the Chalfont Pumping Station.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Reaction (pH)	...	...	...	...	7.1
					Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	359
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	15.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	4.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Hardness, Temporary	...	...	...	...	270
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	...	26
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	...	296
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc)	...	...	...	...	Not found

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37° C.	...	0 per ml.
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20° C.	...	0 per ml.
Coliform bacilli	...	Not found in 100 ml.

From these results I am of opinion that this water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.

SCHEDULE TO APPENDIX
SAMPLES OF WATER COLLECTED DURING THE YEAR

(1) Name of Water Supply	(2) Water Undertaker	(3) Bacteriological Samples		(4) Chemical Samples		(5) Remarks
		Date	Result	Date	Result	
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.	3/3/53	Satisfactory	3/3/53	Satisfactory	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. amalgamated with Great Berkhamsted Water Co. 1st July, 1953
		3/3/53	"	3/3/53	"	
		3/3/53	"	3/3/53	"	
		20/10/53	"	20/10/53	"	
		20/10/53	"	20/10/53	"	
		20/10/53	Unsatis.	20/10/53	Unsatis.	
		10/12/53	Satisfactory	10/12/53	Satisfactory	
Gt. Berkhamsted Water Board	Gt. Berkhamsted Water Board	3/3/53	"	3/3/53	"	
		10/11/53	"	10/11/53	"	
Bucks Water Board	Bucks Water Board	10/11/53	"	10/11/53	"	
Total Samples Collected: 19						

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